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**SUPERVISORS MOLINA AND RIDLEY-THOMAS INITIATE PROCESS
TO APPLY FOR CALTRANS' COMMUNITY-BASED GRANTS FOR
FLORENCE FIRESTONE & LENNOX AREAS**

LOS ANGELES COUNTY – (March 25, 2009) -- Poised to benefit from the updated planning programs that identify sustainable strategies and opportunities that address both community's unique conditions and concerns, Supervisors Gloria Molina and Mark Ridley-Thomas, called for the County's Regional Planning Department to apply to CALTRANS for its Community-Based Transportation and Environmental Justice grants for the unincorporated areas of Florence-Firestone and Lennox.

Supervisors Molina and Ridley-Thomas asked the Board to authorize the Regional Planning Department's Acting Director to take all appropriate action to apply to CALTRANS Transportation grant for the Florence-Firestone community, as well as the Environmental Justice grant for the Lennox community. The Board supported their request to approve the resolution authorizing the application.

The CALTRANS Community-Based Transportation grant for Florence-Firestone is an allocation of up to \$300,000, and the Environmental Justice grant amount is up to \$250,000.

"The CALTRANS Transportation Planning Grant Program aims to coordinate transportation and land use planning projects that encourage community involvement and partnership, providing a timely opportunity for Los Angeles County to solicit resources for this objective," Supervisors Ridley-Thomas and Molina stated in their request to the Board.

Recent efforts in Florence-Firestone, particularly the “Visioning Project,” have engaged constituents in the development of a community vision to address the community’s deteriorating infrastructure, significant criminal activity, zoning violations, and mobility limitations. The community is located near major employment centers, and has access to light rail transit.

The Florence-Firestone area is suited for the Community-Based Transportation grant, as its program focuses on long-sustainable community and economic development, and incorporates community-based stakeholder collaboration and consensus building.

Lennox residents stand to benefit from planning efforts that address aircraft and automobile traffic, related noise and vibration resulting from proximity to the 405 and 105 freeways and the Los Angeles International Airport. The CALTRANS Environmental Justice grant is intended to promote the involvement of low-income and minority communities in the planning of transportation projects.

“The planning program will allow for community collaboration in fostering opportunities that enhance community mobility and access, improve the business climate, and promote economic development,” Supervisors Molina and Ridley-Thomas stated.